



# Agri-News

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## TENNESSEE CATTLE NUMBERS CONTINUE TO FALL

Tennessee cattle herds declined in size for the fourth consecutive year. The total number of cattle and calves in the State on January 1, 2000 was **2.10 million**, a decrease of 3.7 percent from this same time last year. This information is based on a recent cattle survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service. During the State's downward cycle that has occurred since 1996, total cattle inventory has decreased by 450,000. The majority of this inventory reduction was a result of fewer steers, heifers, and calves being retained through Fall and Winter. State Statistician, Gene Danekas commented on the survey results by stating, "Although producers were holding onto more steers through July as prices were rising, a summer drought caused many producers to begin reducing their herds." Danekas continued, "Water shortage, lack of pasture, and inadequate winter hay stocks were the main factors that led to herd reductions." Results of the cattle survey show the following comparisons with 1999 based on January 1 inventories: **Beef cows** totaled **1.01 million**, down 2 percent; **Milk cow** numbers continue to decline and now stand at **96,000**, down 4,000 head; **Calves under 500 pounds** declined by 10,000 head to a total of **580,000**; **Steers and other heifers over 500 pounds** totaled **155,000**, down 18 percent. Tennessee's **1999 calf crop declined to 1.01 million**, 3 percent less than 1998.

### U.S. January 1 Cattle Inventory Down 1 Percent

**All cattle and calves** in the United States as of January 1, 2000, totaled 98.0 million head, 1 percent below the 99.1 million on January 1, 1999 and 2 percent below the 99.7 million two years ago.

**All cows and heifers** that have calved, at 42.7 million, were slightly below the 42.9 million on January 1, 1999 and 1 percent below the 43.1 million two years ago.

- **Beef cows**, at 33.5 million, were down 1 percent from both January 1, 1999 and two years ago.
- **Milk cows**, at 9.19 million, were up 1 percent from January 1, 1999 but slightly below two years ago.

Other class estimates on January 1, 2000, and the changes from January 1 last year and two years ago, respectively, are as follows:

- **All heifers** 500 pounds and over, 19.5 million, down 1 percent and down 1 percent.
- **Beef replacement heifers**, 5.53 million, down slightly and down 4 percent.
- **Milk replacement heifers**, 3.95 million, down 3 percent and down 1 percent.
- **Other heifers**, 10.0 million, down 1 percent and slightly below two years ago.
- **Steers** weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.7 million, down 1 percent and down 3 percent.
- **Bulls** weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.29 million, up 1 percent and up 1 percent.
- **Calves under 500 pounds**, 16.8 million, down 3 percent and down 3 percent.
- **All cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter, 14.0 million, up 6 percent and up 3 percent.

### U.S. Calf Crop Down Slightly

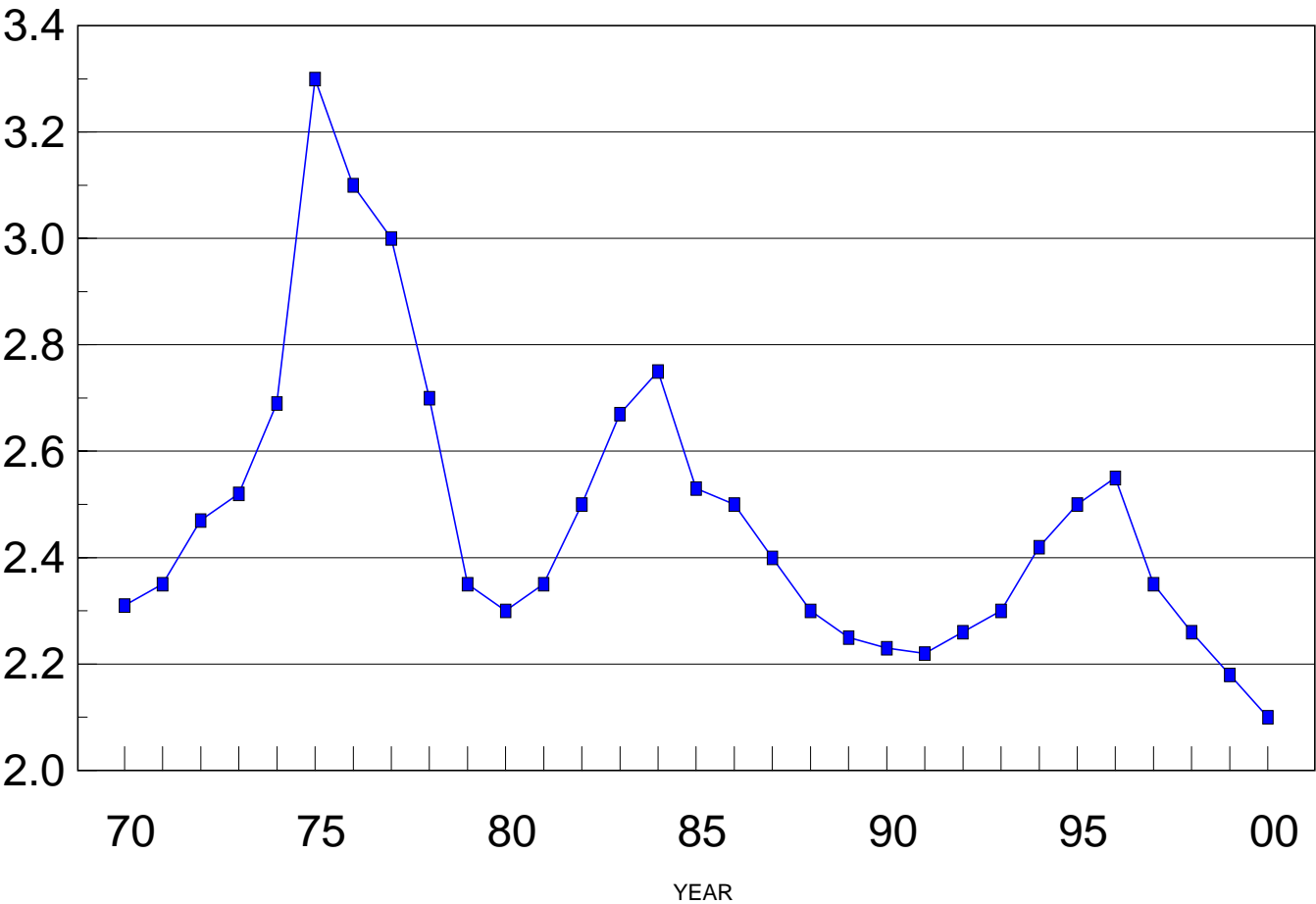
**The 1999 calf crop** was estimated at 38.7 million head, down slightly from 1998 and down 1 percent from 1997. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 28.5 million, the same as 1998 but down slightly from 1997.

CATTLE AND CALVES: NUMBER ON FARMS BY CLASSES, TENNESSEE AND U.S., JANUARY 1, 1999-2000

Class	Tennessee			United States		
	1999	2000	% of change Prev. Year	1999 <sup>1</sup>	2000	% of change Prev. Year
	Thousand Head			Thousand Head		
All Cattle and Calves	2,180	2,100	96	99,115	98,048	99
Cows and Heifers that have Calved	1,130	1,110	98	42,878	42,734	100
Beef	1,030	1,014	98	33,745	33,546	99
Milk	100	96	96	9,133	9,188	101
Heifers, 500 pounds and over	270	230	85	19,774	19,528	99
For Beef Repl.	155	145	94	5,535	5,530	100
For Milk Repl.	45	40	89	4,069	3,954	97
Other Heifers	70	45	64	10,170	10,045	99
Steers, 500 pounds and over	120	110	92	16,891	16,652	99
Bulls, 500 pounds and over	70	70	100	2,281	2,294	101
Calves, under 500 pounds	590	580	98	17,290	16,840	97
Calves Born <sup>2</sup>	1,040	1,010	97	38,812	38,710	100
Cattle on Feed	15	10	67	10,667	11,455	107

## TENNESSEE CATTLE INVENTORY JANUARY 1, 1970 - 2000

MILLION HEAD



<sup>1</sup> Revised. <sup>2</sup> Calves born during previous 12 months.